

SemTix Ballot Vote 2021

Context of the Ballot

The current semester ticket contract expires with the winter semester 2021/22. For over a year, the student body of the University of Potsdam has been negotiating a follow-up contract with the Verkehrsverbund Berlin-Brandenburg (VBB). Now a price offer has been made. The corresponding semester ticket contract would apply from the summer semester of 2022.

The VBB offer essentially provides for a price increase. Currently, we pay 188.16 € per semester. From the summer semester 2022, we would pay 222.00 € and from the summer semester 2023, 243.00 € per semester. This corresponds to a total increase of about 30%. The additional expenditure per student would amount to a total of €177.36 over the two years.

The normal ticket prices (e.g., single tickets) will not be increased by the VBB in the coming year. In Berlin, it is planned that the price increase of the semester ticket will be compensated by the state, so that Berlin students will still pay 193.80 € per semester next year (valid in Berlin ABC).

According to the current offer, the new contract would expire in the winter semester 2023/24. After that, a new contract with different conditions can be concluded.

Consequences of the Ballot

If **most students vote in favour of signing** the contract, a semester ticket contract will definitely be signed. The ticket price would increase in two steps from 188.16 € to 243.00 € per semester.

If **most students vote against signing** the contract, there can be no semester ticket at the above conditions. If the VBB or politicians do not give in, there might be no semester ticket starting with the summer semester of 2022. However, the VBB would miss out on considerable revenue as a result. Therefore, the VBB could also engage in new contract negotiations, which could result in better conditions for the students. It would also increase the pressure on politicians to once again provide financial support for the semester ticket. Which of the cases will occur cannot be predicted with certainty. A possible improved offer could still be accepted by the student parliament at short notice.

Ballot Questions

Question 1

Should the General Students' Committee (AStA) conclude a semester ticket contract for the student body of the University of Potsdam with the following conditions?

- Contract period starting in the summer semester of 2022 for 2 years
- Gradual increase of the semester ticket price to 243.00 € per semester
- The remaining conditions of the current semester ticket contract will essentially remain unchanged

(Yes/No)

Question 2

During the contract negotiations described above, the student body always aimed for a semester ticket for 365 € per year (182.50 € per semester) in the medium term. This follows the example of the VBB-Abo-Azubi. Since 2019, trainees have been able to travel throughout Berlin and Brandenburg for 365 € per year. This price is made possible by a subsidy from the state. The semester ticket has not been subsidised so far.

Regardless of Question 1, should the General Students' Committee (AStA) continue to advocate for a semester ticket for a maximum of 365 € per year (182.50 € per semester)?

(Yes/No)